

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner in items a-e, i, j, o, u, v, y-bb, ff, ll, oo, uu, and vv. However, the other changes suggested by the Examiner were not made for at least the following reasons:

Item f: The Examiner has requested a change to claim 4 in order to allegedly make the claim consistent with the apparatus claim. However, there is no requirement for independent claims to be consistent with each other.

Items g-h, k-l and r: Since Applicant did not change the “storage means” to a “storage device” the requested change to claim 4 is not appropriate.

Items n, q, x and tt: The Examiner has requested that claims be changed from “are stored” to “is stored.” This change would be grammatically incorrect because more than one item is stored. Also, since the change regarding the storage means was not made, the other changes requested by the Examiner would not be appropriate.

Items s, t, cc-ee, gg-kk, mm, nn, pp-rr and ww: The requested changes to the claims would unnecessarily change the scope of the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
USSN: 09/686,760

Q61105

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl J. Pellegrini

Registration No. 40,766

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 2, 2004